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interchanging with *k*, but as long as I hear the "elect" say *tāge-tāk*, I shall hold it up to my students as the ideal pronunciation.

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### JUDAISM IN THE WEST IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In my article on "Old English Literature and Jewish Learning," published in MOD. LANG. NOTES for March 1891 (vi, pp. 77-78), and again in my paper on "The Name Cædmon" (*Publications of the MOD. LANG. ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*, Vol. vi, No. 1), I collected certain items of evidence tending to show that the Jews, their language and their doctrines, were not so completely unknown in the West during the Old English period as has been sometimes supposed. I have since chanced upon another testimony to the same effect, less cogent, because of a later date, but not likely to have been a pure fabrication. I find it in TODD'S 'St. Patrick,' p. 108, where it is quoted from the Abbess HILDEGARDIS' Life of St. Disibod, or Disen, abbot of Disenberg, in the diocese of Mayence. HILDEGARDIS lived near the close of the twelfth century, but the state of things she describes must be assigned, according to TODD, to the year 620, or thereabouts:—

"At the time when the holy man was thus governing his people with words and examples, a huge schism and great scandals prevailed in all that country (i. e. Ireland). Some rejected the Old and New Testament, and denied Christ; others embraced heresies; very many went over to Judaism; some relapsed into paganism."

To quote TODD'S note at the foot of p. 109: "The original words are: 'Plerisque ad Judaismum se conferentibus.'"

ALBERT S. COOK.

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### THE ETYMOLOGY OF ENGLISH *tote*.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—The etymology of this interesting word, suggested by Prof. BASKERVILL in the June number of MOD. LANG. NOTES, (vi, pp.

180-181) seems like a very good guess. It seems possible from the meaning of a word 'tooters' which, we are told, signified in the sixteenth century persons who were wont 'to hunt out customers on the road.' But is this suggested etymology any more than a guess? It is certainly remarkable that Prof. BASKERVILL does not even attempt to account for the form of the word. O. E. *tōtian*, M. E. *tōten*, by the laws of change, would give present English *tūt* (London Eng. *tāwt*) which would be spelled in the sixteenth century *toot*, and at the present time *toot* or *tout*. Moreover, the original word has remained to the present time in its meaning of 'to ply or seek for customers' (cf. WEBSTER'S 'International Dic.' *tout*, *toot*; WRIGHT'S 'Provincial Vocab.' *toot*, *tout*). It also occurs in the noun form *touters* in DICKENS:

"The posy of ring droppers, . . . duffers, *touters*, or any of those bloodless sharpers who are, perhaps, better known to the police."

Of course Prof. BASKERVILL knows all this, but it serves to emphasize the point that O. E. *tōtian*, M. E. *tōten*, has come down to us in the phonetic form it should have according to the laws of change. If English 'tote' to carry, is derived from the same word, the essential thing to do is to show how this exceptional form came to exist, and until this is done the etymology is wholly hypothetical.

OLIVER FARRAR EMERSON.

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*Wove* (for *waved*), *dove* (for *dived*).

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—I should like to ask those interested in the survival of older forms, whether *wove* (for *waved*) is common. In New Brunswick a man said not long since, "I *wove* my hand to you": and a few days ago a preacher in Boston spoke of "how the palm trees *wove*."

In what part of North America is the form *dove* (for *dived*) very common, as it is here in New Brunswick?

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### CHAUCER'S PROLOGUE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LONG. NOTES:

SIRS:—It should be stated that ZUPITZA